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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY USSR (Saratov Oblast)

DATE DISTR.

11 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT Factory Field of Aircraft Plant No. 292

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1. Location:

The factory field was southwest of Saratov (51-34N, 46-02E) it bordered on Ball-Bearing Plant No 3 on the west and on the aircraft plant on the east.

2. The field covered a site of about 2.5 x 1 km but it was being expanded toward the south and northeast. Two runways intersecting each other at an angle of 80° were each 200 to 300 meters long.

3. On the western border of the field were four wooden buildings, serving as assembly shops for jet fighters. The parts of the jet aircraft arrived from an unidentified place.

4. The work force:

For the four assembly shops a total of about 600 Soviets working in three shifts.

5. Output:

Assembly of two jet fighters every day.

6. Description of fighters:

Jet engine in fuselage, air inlet at the nose, exhaust at rear of fuselage. Swept-back wings set at forward third of fuselage. Length of each wing, which looked rather stubby, was about 1.5 meters; cut-off wing tips.

The swept-back elevator assembly was set at the rear end of the fuselage, the rudder assembly was strikingly small, about 0.6 meter high. Cigar-shaped fuselage. Nose wheel retracting rearward. Streamlined cockpit set forward of leading edge of wings. Armament: Two 20 to 37-mm cannons (rough estimate, visible on both sides of the nose. One-man crew.

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7. Flying:

a. Take-offs of two jet fighters in the morning. Take-off run $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of the runway. There were several unsuccessful take-offs. After the termination of the flying activities the jet fighters were towed back to the assembly shops.

b. [] the fighters were transferred to a military airfield near Saratov.

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c. Take-offs and landings of twin-engine transports which were loaded by the ball-bearing plant.

8. A 300-meter target range was in the eastern or northeastern section of the field. Jet fighters were towed there in the evening for adjustment of their armament.

9. Security measures:

The factory field was surrounded by a double fence and guarded by sentries.

[] Comment:

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a. Report makes it probable that the production of jet fighters in Aircraft Plant No 227 started in the Spring of 1949. The produced type is concordantly described as a modern jet fighter with pronounced sweep-back, but these rather primitive descriptions do not permit an identification as to type. The length of the wings which was given as 1.5 meters was certainly underrated, probably because of their sweep-back.

b. A daily output of two aircraft for the end of 1949 appears credible. The mentioned transfer of the finished aircraft to a military airfield east of Saratov requires confirmation by more recent reports on the field.

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